

CONFIDENTIALMarch 22nd, 1960COCOM Document No. 3926COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONA UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSAL TO EXPORT AIRBORNE COMMUNICATION/NAVIGATIONEQUIPMENT TO THE SOVIET UNIONMarch 17th, 1960

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents Nos. 3900, 3902, 3916.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the United Kingdom proposal to export two sets of airborne communication/navigation equipment to the Soviet Union. He recalled that in COCOM 3916 the United Kingdom Delegation had answered a number of technical questions put by the United States Delegation on March 3rd (COCOM 3902). He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.

2. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that after studying all the information provided by the United Kingdom, his authorities raised no objection to this export.

3. The FRENCH Delegate stated that his authorities had studied carefully the answers provided by the United Kingdom Delegation to the questions put by the United States Delegation. They noted that the V.O.R./I.L.S. equipment was transistorized. It had been possible to export this equipment in its non-transistorized form as an administrative exception only since February 1st 1960. As far as the transistorized type was concerned, the French authorities felt that it would not be proper to go beyond the bounds of the recent list review since this equipment contained modern technical know-how with regard to the miniaturization of electronic equipment. They could not, therefore, agree to its export. Referring next to the S.T.R. 23 and combined equipment, the Delegate pointed out that this had been in normal civil use only since August 1959, moreover during the 1959 discussions on this item the Committee's attention had been drawn to the danger from the military point of view of making available to the Bloc equipment capable of the rapid selection of large numbers of channels and also to the tactical, strategic and logistical value of such equipment. This equipment had a spacing of 50 kc/s, whereas in less advanced equipment spacing of 100 ks/s or more was usual. For these reasons, the French authorities felt that the S.T.R. 23 and combined equipment was too recent from the technical point of view and regretted that they were unable to agree to this export either.

4. The DANISH and ITALIAN Delegates said that their authorities raised no objection to this export because of the end-use involved.

5. The GERMAN Delegate stated that his authorities had been somewhat concerned about this export since the material in question was relatively new. They would not, however, raise an objection to the export in view of the end-use stated.

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6. There were no objections from the other members of the Committee.

7. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate thanked the Committee for the views that had been expressed and said that the remarks of his French colleague would be studied with interest in London. He pointed out that paragraph 8 of COCOM 3900 gave full reasons why the United Kingdom had submitted this request: the equipment was to be used in Soviet aircraft on the Moscom -London route and was required in the interest of safety at western airports. It was equipment which the I.C.A.O. recommended should come into general use. He asked the French Delegate, who was the only one to raise an objection to this export, to invite his authorities to reconsider their position.

8. The FRENCH Delegate assured his United Kingdom colleague that he would inform the competent French authorities of the comments which had been made and would not fail to inform the United Kingdom Delegation and the Committee of their reaction as soon as possible.

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